



# Bay Trail Rider

The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project  
Administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments

Summer/Fall 1998

## Bay Trail on the Bay Bridge!!

*A Week to Celebrate*

By Victoria Eisen



*Graphic simulation provided by H2L2 and Safdie Rabines Architects.*

Champagne corks were popping for public access enthusiasts in June! With a little luck and a lot of perseverance, a bicycle/pedestrian path linking Oakland and San Francisco may be built much sooner than anyone ever expected.

### Some History

When Caltrans announced plans last year to replace the east span of the Bay Bridge with an entirely new structure, Bay Trail staff along with bicycle and pedestrian advocates from all over the Bay Area seized the opportunity to insist that a world class bridge must have public access. And they didn't stop there! Working with Assembly Member Carole Migden, they also proposed legislation to allow a path to be added to the bridge's west span, thus completing the Bay Trail connection between San Francisco and Oakland.

### Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Advocates – including members of the Regional Bicycle Advisory Committee, East Bay Area Trails Council, East Bay Bicycle Coalition, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, Bike the Bridge! Coalition, Bicycle

Friendly Berkeley Coalition, California Bicycle Advocates, Stanford University Bicycle Program and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District – formed an ad hoc committee (Bay Bridge Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee) under the leadership of Bay Trail staff.

Path supporters pointed to the Golden Gate Bridge to show how many people will use a Bay Bridge path. Views from the Bay Bridge will rival those of its orange sister across the Bay, they argued. And, not only does the Bay Bridge link population centers and trail systems that will be completed by the time the bridge opens in 2003, the soon-to-be developed Treasure Island will offer an exciting and scenic recreational destination.

Caltrans asked the Committee to advise them on the pathway details needed for MTC to make a funding decision. The committee worked closely with Caltrans, MTC staff, the MTC Engineering & Design Advisory Panel and the bridge designers, for well over a year to develop pathway design and location recommendations.

Simultaneously, these hard-working Bay Bridge path advocates – mostly unpaid – also worked with Assembly Member Migden's office to develop and promote legislation to give MTC the authority to allocate toll funds for a path on the west span.

### An Historic Week

A year and a half after the process began, on June 24, 1998, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) made history by choosing a Bay Bridge east span design that includes a 15-foot wide path on the south side of the new bridge. As if choreographed, Governor Wilson signed the west span bill later the same week.

### What's Next?

As exciting as all of these recent developments are, there is still a lot of work to do:

First, design challenges such as minimizing the visual intrusion of handrails and how to separate faster wheeled users from people out for a stroll, need to be finalized for the east span path.

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Second, Bay Trail staff and other path supporters will need to work closely with Caltrans on the design of the west span path. Finally, path advocates must work with Caltrans to incorporate a pathway into the west span seismic retrofit project. The alternative for completing the Bay Trail connection is to build the path as a separate, and possibly much more expensive, project.

### **A Few Thanks**

Of course, it was not only path advocates that made this happen: A shore-to-shore Bay Bridge path would have remained just a dream without the hard work of many friends of the Bay Trail. Throughout the process, the mayors of the East Bay cities of Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Alameda and Piedmont all spoke on behalf of pedestrian and bicycle access at every opportunity.

Caltrans and their consulting bridge designers worked very hard developing pathway cost estimates. The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) weighed in by directing their representative on MTC to vote in favor of a path. MTC staff, MTC Bay Bridge Design Task Force Chair Mary King and the entire MTC Commission deserve kudos for thoughtful consideration and attention to presentations and to public comments of dozens of path supporters.

Thanks also to the hundreds of people who wrote to Governor Wilson urging him to sign AB 2038 and to the Legislature and the Governor for supporting the bill. Finally, without Assemblymember Carole Migden's leadership, path-users would have been left stranded at Yerba Buena Island.

*For more information, call Victoria Eisen at 510-464-7960 or email [VictoriaE@abag.ca.gov](mailto:VictoriaE@abag.ca.gov)*

**Bay Trail Rider**, the newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, highlights the progress and development of the Bay Trail.

Check out the **Bay Trail website** for news and updates, upcoming events, meetings, and announcements:

**<http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov>**

For more information call 510/464-7935.

#### Contributors

Janet McBride, Bay Trail Project Manager

Victoria Eisen, Senior Planner

Niko Letunic, Bay Trail Planner

Ceil Scandone, Bay Trail Planner

Colin Burgett, Intern

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## **East Span Path**

### ***What will it look like?***

- Single path
- 15 feet wide
- South side of eastbound deck
- One foot higher than roadway deck level

### ***How much will it cost?***

\$50 million, or three percent of the total \$1.6 billion bridge replacement budget.

### ***How will it be funded?***

SB 60 levies a \$1 surcharge on Bay Area toll bridges for eight years (starting last January) to help pay for the cost of retrofitting them. The bill also allows MTC to extend the toll for up to two years – which will generate about \$230 million – to pay for any of three “amenities:”

- a cable-supported span (“signature design”)
- replacement or relocation of the Transbay Terminal in San Francisco
- a bicycle/pedestrian path

## **West Span Path**

AB 2038 now adds a fourth “amenity” for consideration:

- a pathway on the retrofitted west span

## **Overall Budget & Next Steps**

The chosen single tower suspension design, plus the east span path, will cost \$141 million, leaving up to \$89 million for the Transbay Terminal, the path on the west span, or both.

Next steps prior to MTC's decision on funding a west span pathway include developing a preliminary cost estimate, and completion of a Transbay Terminal study, expected sometime in 1999.

## **Bay Trail Signage Program Gears Up**



While more than half the length of the Bay Trail system is complete, many segments have never been signed and, in other areas, signs have faded, peeled or disappeared. To remedy this situation, the Bay Trail Project recently placed a large order for new Bay Trail signs and markers. Three sizes are available: 18 -, 12 -, (a new size), and 3-inch square. Signs and markers are available free to jurisdictions to install. Please call us to order new signs, to suggest new sign locations, and/or to report missing, vandalized, or deteriorated signs. Call Niko Letunic at 510-464-7915.

# Sun Shines on Irv Besser Memorial Bench Dedication

By Ceil Scandone



Past Chair Tom Mikkelsen emcees, joined by family, friends and colleagues.

Fifty friends and colleagues joined the Besser family on Sunday, May 31 at the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve to dedicate a bench in memory of Irv Besser.

Bay Trail Project Manager Janet McBride welcomed everyone, and then turned the program over to Immediate Past Chair Tom Mikkelsen, who served as a skillful and entertaining emcee. Former Bay Trail Project Manager Jill Keimach, who worked closely with Irv for eight years, delivered an eloquent eulogy. Board Co-Chair Bill Bliss bicycled up from San Jose to share his memories of Irv. Advisory Council member and Manager of Shoreline at Mountain View, Glenn Lyles challenged everyone to follow Irv's example by joining the effort to extend the Bay Trail through Moffett Field.

Other speakers included Barbara Wein, Executive Director of American Youth Hostels, Golden Gate Chapter, and Western Wheelers Bicycle Club members Bruce Heflinger, Chuck Shoens, Leo Moll, and Bob deMille. Both organizations contributed generously to the bench fund. Finally, Irv and Harriet's son Howard spoke movingly on behalf of the family. Irv was remembered for his dedication, tenacity, tireless spirit, and love of nature, traveling and cycling.

After the ceremony, all gathered at the Besser residence for conversation, music, and good food. Everyone agreed that the bench is a fitting memorial for Irv. It provides a marvelous vantage point from which to enjoy the beauties of the surrounding landscape and the view across the water towards the East Bay hills. Make a point of stopping by for a restful moment the next time you visit Palo Alto Baylands. Pedal or walk along the Bay Trail past Byxbee Park to the water's edge. The bench is just off the trail on your left.

Many thanks to the Besser family, particularly to Harriet for her advice and support, and to all those who contributed to the memorial bench fund. Special recognition to Palo Alto Open Space Manager Greg Betts for his personal efforts to ensure the site was ready, despite unrelenting spring rains. Thanks also to Greg and Glenn Lyles for their help in making the dedication a memorable event.



Harriet Besser with daughter Barbara and son Howard, enjoying the new bench.

## BAY TRAIL SUPPORTERS —“The Key to Our Success” February 1998 – July 1998

### Platinum Supporters (\$100+)

Jill Keimach  
Stephen Nick  
Shanna O'Hare

### Bay Blazers (\$50-\$99)

Werner Barasch (employer match  
from Becton Dickinson)  
Janice Gendreau  
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### Trail Supporters (up to \$49)

Marvin Bobes  
David Burch  
Anne Fulmer  
Melinda & David Lunn  
Philip Sales  
Arthur & Norma Schroeder  
John Watkins

### Corporate Champion

Thank you to Cargill Salt for a  
generous contribution of \$5,000  
during this period.

**Note:** Shortly before our press deadline, the family of Don Gray designated the Bay Trail Project to receive donations in his memory. We are extremely grateful and will fully acknowledge all contributors in the next newsletter.

## Contributors to the Irv Besser Memorial Bench

### Groups

American Youth Hostels	K.D. and Judith Lathrop
Regional Bicycle Advisory Committee	Harold Lips
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition	Donna & Greg Lund
Western Wheelers Bicycle Club	Liane & Walter McCabe
	Howard Meissner

### Individuals

Clifford & Zelda Barnett	Susann Novalis
Bill Bliss	George & Marty Oetzel
Nancy & Donald Burnett	Eunice & Harold Pollen
Betsy Evert	Lou Satz & Gloria Scott
Ellen Fletcher	Claire & Chuck Shoens
Roger & Peggy Heathcote	Jill Singleton
Bruce Heflinger & Mary DeMasters	Dick & Jerry Smallwood
Nancy & Hank Heubach	Carolyn & Philip Spiegel
James & Laurie Jarrett	Paula Stewart
Jill Keimach	Fernando & Colleen Vescia
John Langbein & Karen Davis	Joan Wallach & Arthur Rosenbloom
	Barbara Wein
	Sharon & Tom Winstrom

## San Rafael Shoreline Park “Fennel Busting”

*By Janet McBride*



*“Fennel busters”: including (back row from right to left) Doug Wisman, CCC Conservation Supervisor; Jerry Edelbrock, Marin Conservation League; and Mayor Al Boro. Also pictured is entire the CCC crew including crew leader Mike Perry, Conservationist I.*

San Rafael beat the pack out of the gate as the first of this year’s Regional Development Program (RDP) projects to break ground. An April 27<sup>th</sup> celebration was billed as a “fennel busting” since the first task was to remove invasive fennel and other non-native vegetation.

This project will extend a paved section of the Bay Trail north of Pelican Way, just off East Francisco Boulevard. A true partnership was formed including the City, Marin Conservation League, California Conservation Corps (CCC), Marin Conservation Corps, and local business. Besides extending the Bay Trail, project improvements include improving wetland habitat, removing weeds, replanting native plants, installing award-winning protective fencing, and levee repair.

Jean Starkweather of the Marin Conservation League stressed the importance of the area as habitat for migratory birds. More than 150 species flock to the area, which provides especially rich habitat with both saltwater and adjacent freshwater habitat (in the Marin Municipal Water District pond). Corps members have been treated to a slideshow and talks about the local wildlife, habitat and

native vegetation as part of the Marin Conservation League’s educational contribution to the project.

San Rafael both voiced and demonstrated its strong commitment to complete the rest of this stretch of Bay Trail. In attendance were Mayor Al Boro, City Manager Rod Gould, Community Development Director Bob Brown, Director of Community Services Carlene McCart, and project lead, Senior Planner Linda Jackson, among others. Other attendees included: Executive Director of the Marin Conservation League Jerry Edelbrock; the entire CCC crew, including Conservation Supervisor Doug Wisman and crew leader Conservationist I Mike Perry, and local business owners.

While Mayor Boro was speaking a cyclist, as if on cue, pedaled up along the path behind him and stopped to inquire about the festivities and add her encouragement. The Mayor pitched in with the fennel busting, wielding clippers. He wisely elected to leave the chain saws to the experts.

Come late fall, site visitors will enjoy a completed project, as well as spectacular views of the Marin Islands, the Richmond San Rafael Bridge, the Bay and East Bay foothills beyond.

## Honoring Senator Lockyer’s Legacy

*By Niko Letunic*

Senator Bill Lockyer will be honored at an August 11 reception in the new Hayward City Hall rotunda for his instrumental role in creating the Bay Trail and for his steadfast championship of the project since then. Senator Lockyer, first elected to the Assembly in 1973 and to the Senate in 1982, is retiring from the California Legislature later this year after 25 years of service.

Senator Lockyer is considered the “father” of the Bay Trail for authoring SB 100, the enabling legislation that authorized the Association of Bay Area Governments to develop a plan for a network of bicycling and hiking trails that would encircle the San Francisco and San Pablo bays. SB 100 was co-authored by the entire Bay Area legislative delegation and signed into law in 1987. More recently,



Senator Lockyer was pivotal in securing \$200,000 in State funds in 1996 and \$1 million in 1997 for the Regional Development Program, a competitive grant program that helps jurisdictions complete Bay Trail sections.

Bay Area residents who care about our quality-of-life owe a huge debt of gratitude to Senator Lockyer for his efforts to increase recreational opportunities, transportation alternatives and public access to the Bay. The Board of Directors and staff of the Bay Trail Project extend a warm thank you to Senator Lockyer for his original vision and his unwavering support and commitment over the years.

*For more information, contact Niko Letunic at 510-464-7915.*



# TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS: New Trail Segments, Plans & Opportunities

## MARIN

**Hamilton.** Re-use plans for Hamilton present both new opportunities and concerns for a continuous Bay Trail alignment. Current plans provide a new Bay Trail alignment through Hamilton. However, wetland restoration plans and eventual flooding would result in a break in the current shoreline (spur) alignment of the Bay Trail. At the same time, there is uncertainty about ROW for the (spine) alignment just west of Hamilton, with plans under consideration for a new Marin-Sonoma transportation corridor. Staff is working with BCDC, the Coastal Conservancy and local jurisdictions to identify potential solutions.

## SAN FRANCISCO

**San Francisco.** A trails “summit” was held in late June at Fort Mason to brainstorm Bay Trail improvements in S.F., including through Candlestick and Hunters Point and along Illinois Street and Marina Boulevard. Present were representatives of city agencies, recreational and bicycling advocates, and neighborhood leaders.

## SANTA CLARA

**Sunnyvale.** Construction on Sunnyvale Baylands (a Regional Development Program project) will begin this summer, opening up about 2.8 miles of Bay Trail levee trails, and providing access to another 4 miles of levee trails. The Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Department is the project lead; partners include: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Santa Clara County, City of Sunnyvale, and CCC.

## South Bay Ad Hoc Committee

After a one-year hiatus, the South Bay Ad Hoc Committee reconvened with a meeting on July 7 to identify opportunities to extend the Bay Trail through Moffett and elsewhere in Santa Clara County and to re-establish priorities, time lines, and next steps. We hope to report progress soon.

## BAY AREA TOLL BRIDGES

**Benicia-Martinez.** A new span will be built north of the existing bridge to accommodate northbound traffic. Then the old span will be reconfigured for southbound traffic and one lane will be turned into a 12-foot wide, two-way multi-use pathway. Expected opening: 2003.

**Carquinez.** A 12-foot wide, two-way multi-use pathway is planned for the west side of a new southbound span, expected by 2002.

**Hayward-San Mateo.** The eastern (trestle) section will be widened from four to six lanes with two ten-foot shoulders. As a permit condition, Caltrans will build a bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Highway 92. The possibility of including a pathway on the new section and, perhaps, on the existing elevated (western) section is being investigated.

**Richmond-San Rafael.** A feasibility study of bicycle, pedestrian and wheelchair access is currently nearing completion. Interested parties are working on a proposal to safely accommodate path-users, Caltrans maintenance workers and disabled vehicles.

**San Francisco- Oakland Bay.** See cover page story.

## ALAMEDA

**Port of Oakland.** The Vision 2000 Program planning process for Middle Harbor is considering new public access and habitat improvements, including a Bay Trail alignment that could extend from the fishing pier at the western terminus of Port View Park and around Middle Harbor. Under this plan, Middle Harbor Road would be reconfigured and Middle Harbor Park would be eliminated. A potential new alignment to connect to Jack London Square is being explored.

**Oakland Army Base Reuse Authority (OBRA).** The Reuse Plan for the Oakland Army Base proposes a path along Maritime Street from I-80 to 7th Street, with connections to the future Bay Bridge path and Port View Park. The Bay Trail Project has asked that the Plan incorporate bike lanes on West Grand Avenue.

**Oakland Estuary Plan.** The City's Estuary Plan envisions a six-mile bikeway set in a “necklace” of parks, along 3rd Street from Mandela Parkway to the Lake Merritt Channel and a new, slow-traffic Embarcadero Parkway from Oak Street to 66th Avenue. Other bike lanes and streetscape enhancements would connect the waterfront to inland areas.

## Bay Trail Maps Available in Convenient Packaging

The nine full-color Bay Trail maps are now available in one clear vinyl, tri-folded pack. The new durable packaging is the same size as standard folded maps such as AAA maps. For better organization and easier access, each map has its own individual pocket. As always, existing and proposed Bay Trail routes are shown on the nine water-resistant 11-by-17 inch maps.

Maps may be purchased from ABAG by calling 510/464-7900. Each set costs \$10.95 plus tax (shipping is free). Individual maps are \$1.50. Maps are also available in Bay Area bookstores and may soon be available in bike stores.

## Special Events — Mark your Calendar

**Saturday, October 17, 1:15 pm – 6:00 pm**

### Third Annual Peak to Peak

Meet in Justin Herman Plaza, San Francisco. Riders will travel around the north shore of San Francisco, over the Golden Gate Bridge, through Sausalito, and along the Bicentennial bike path. Rolling through Mill Valley, participants will ascend Mt. Tamalpais on Old Railroad Grade, then ride down the Eldridge Grade and along Sir Frances Drake to the Larkspur Ferry. The pace of this 45-mile ride is very fast and the technical difficulty is intermediate. Sponsored by the Greenbelt Alliance. Contact Preston Jordan at (510) 559-8684 (or e-mail [PDJordan@lbl.gov](mailto:PDJordan@lbl.gov)).

**Saturday, November 7, 9:30 am – noon**

### Martinez Bay Trail – Ridge Trail Joint Dedication

A joint dedication will be held from 9:30-noon in Martinez Shoreline Park. The event celebrates a newly completed and signed section primarily on Marina Vista, starting at Mococo Road (just west of the Benicia-Martinez bridge) and continuing east through Martinez, to the EBRPD Nejedly Staging Area (Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline). The event will also highlight the Martinez Intermodal train and ferry improvements. Festivities will include refreshments, music, street and mountain bike rides, an in-line skating tour and hikes. Plan to join us! Contact Janet McBride at (510) 464-7935.

## SHORT CUTS

### Welcome New Board Member

**Joe Griffin**, District Director for the California Conservation Corps (CCC), joins the Board with 10 years of CCC experience. Staff has enjoyed the opportunity to work with Joe for the past 2 years on the Regional Development Program. We look forward to Joe's membership and creative ideas for continued collaboration and partnership.

### Staff News

Welcome to **Niko Letunic** full time Bay Trail Planner since May. Niko, at right, sporting a Bay Trail T-shirt during the recent AIDS Ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Niko brings great talent and enthusiasm to the Project. Previous professional experience includes the U.S. EPA and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. He is the project lead for San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and can be reached at extension (510) 464-7915 or [NikoL@abag.ca.gov](mailto:NikoL@abag.ca.gov).



We are fortunate to have **Colin Burgett**, a recent graduate with a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, as a summer intern. Colin is creating a comprehensive inventory of Bay Trail gaps and is coordinating logistics for new Bay Trail sign placement. He can be reached at (510) 464-7909 or [ColinB@abag.ca.gov](mailto:ColinB@abag.ca.gov).

### Regional Development Program Funding

Although it won't be certain until the Governor signs this year's budget, we are optimistic about the availability of another round of Regional Development Program funds. These funds would be offered as competitive grants to local cities and districts for Bay Trail extensions, in partnership with the CCC. Stay tuned.



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